

## LAWRENCE HOUSE MUSEUM

### MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To present the story of W.D. Lawrence (and his family), shipbuilder and businessman and entrepreneur, perceptive world traveler, member of the House of Assembly and anti-Confederate.
- » To explore his house as representative of the homes of prosperous small town shipbuilders, owners and captains.
- » To interpret wooden shipbuilding on the coastlines of Minas Basin, with special reference to the W.D Lawrence (the largest fully square-rigged ship ever built in Canada, October 27, 1874), its voyages and contribution to Nova Scotia-based commerce.
- » To explain the wider story of Nova Scotia's maritime culture and world trade in the Age of Sail in the second half of the 19th century.
- » To highlight the changing natural and human environment of Cobequid Bay and the Maitland/Selma coast, the Bay of Fundy/ Minas Basin tides, the intertidal habitats, and the Shubenacadie Canal system.

### PROPOSED CONTENT

\*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

## I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

### C. EXPLOITING

#### C.4 Commerce

- Colonial Business and Trade
- Nova Scotia/New England Trade: Maritime culture and trade at the end of the Age of Sail.
- Confederation & National Commerce

#### C.5 Transportation

- Ships & Watercraft: W.D. Lawrence and the Age of Sail.

### D. RELATING

#### D.2 Governance and Politics

- Responsible Government: W.D. Lawrence was a member of the House of Assembly.
- Canadian Confederation: W.D. Lawrence was an anti-confederate.

#### D.5 Education

- Lifelong & Informal Learning: W.D. Lawrence was a representative of an intellectual curiosity that marked 19th century Nova Scotia society.

### E. LIVING

#### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Gender Roles and Home Life
- Childhood Experiences
- People in the Workplace

#### E.2 Communities

- Coastal Towns/Villages: History and importance of Maitland.
- People at Sea: Experiences of W.D. Lawrence, his family (members of his family joined Lawrence on several of his seafaring trips), and his contemporaries.

## II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

### B. EVOLVING

#### B.5 Response to Place

- Coastal Communities: Shipbuilding and commerce in Cobequid Bay and Minas Basin/Channel.

### C. EXPLOITING

#### C.3 Industry

- Boat and Shipbuilding: Wooden shipbuilding and Lawrence's famous ship and shipyard.

### E. LIVING

#### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Food on the Table

#### E.4 Cultural Expression

- Folklore and Celebrations: Local stories.

### III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

#### A. FORMING

##### A.1 Geological Formation

- Creation of Mineral Deposits

##### A.4 Ocean Environment

- Coastal Intertidal Environments: Bay of Fundy tides; salt marshes.

##### A.5 Biodiversity

- Life Forms and Ecosystems: Salt-water habitat.
- Species Diversity
- Ecosystem Diversity

#### B. EVOLVING

##### B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life

##### B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea

##### B.5 Response to Place

- Age of Sail: 1830 – 1880
- Mining Towns, Farming Towns, Logging Towns

##### B.6 Agents of Change

- Rural Depopulation since 1945

##### B.7 Understanding Our World

- Amateur Inquiry and Collecting

#### C. EXPLOITING

##### C.5 Transportation

- Waterways & Canals

##### C.6 Environmental Values

- Environmental Impact: Erosion of coastline by sea action.
- Endangered Environments/Species

#### D. RELATING

##### D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous

##### D.7 Social Equality

- Capital and Labour (incl. indentured)

#### E. LIVING

##### E.1 Life at Home and Work

- Places of Community Interaction?

##### E.2 Communities

- Shore-based Industry: Shipyard and supporting activities.

### CONCLUSIONS

Expand scope of W.D. Lawrence stories to introduce shipbuilding physically onto the site and use Maitland as representative of coastal communities in the bay/basin. Integrate site with adjacent salt marsh and introduce natural history content using riverfront and coast. Look for contemporary, local connections (i.e., contemporary, local boatbuilders) that can be related to W.D. Lawrence. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic “European/Mi’kmaq contact” (part of B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.